

# A&S Explorer

February 2021



Our Ph.D. students are not only the next generation of teachers and researchers, they're also vital to the A&S mission and to enriching our intellectual community. In this month's letter, Dean Geer shares some of the new investments the college and the university are making to ensure that we attract the best Ph.D. students and equip them for success and meaningful impact.

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## Black History Month Spotlight

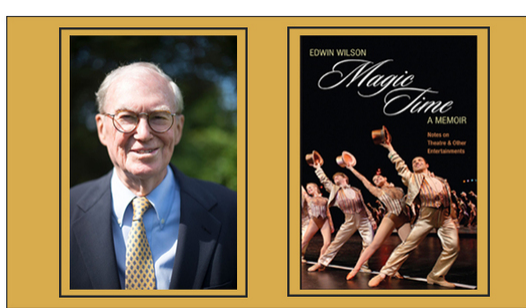


Rosevelt Noble | Lost in the Ivy

For the last 10 years, Sociology lecturer and Black Cultural Center director Rosevelt Noble has poured himself into an important research project: collecting, recording, and elevating the stories of Vanderbilt's Black students and alumni. The process has sometimes led to difficult and uncomfortable conversations, but they are a necessary part of the path to unity and equality. Learn more about the inspiration behind Noble's work and about the impact the project has had on the A&S community and Vanderbilt as a whole.

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## Featured Stories



[Edwin Wilson, BA'50, recalls a life devoted to the theater](#)



[Chemist Steven Townsend wins prestigious Sloan Fellowship](#)



[New "Hands on Humanities" courses highlight Vanderbilt history](#)



[Alumni couple gives \\$5M to endow center for presidential scholarship](#)

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## In the Media

**Salon:** [The all of "y'all": On finally embracing my voice, country twang and everything](#)

(Justin Quarry, senior lecturer of English, authored)

**FiveThirtyEight:** [Why Revoking Trump's Executive Orders Isn't Enough To Undo Their Effects](#)

(Sharece Thrower, associate professor of political science, quoted)

**Courthouse News Service:** [General Motors Plans to Phase Out Gas-Powered Vehicles by 2035](#)

(Jonathan Gilligan, associate professor of Earth and environmental sciences, quoted)

**Tennessean:** [Ashland City author, Vanderbilt University lecturer tackles mental health in new book](#)

(Allison Leich Hilbun, senior lecturer of biological sciences, interviewed)

**Fast Company:** [Carbon offsetting can be a tool of environmental justice](#)

(Zdravka Tzankova, associate professor of sociology, authored)

**Voice of America:** [Congress Repeats Calls for Independent Commission to Probe US Capitol Attack](#)

(Thomas Schwartz, distinguished professor of history, quoted)

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## Snapshot



(Joe Howell/Vanderbilt University)

### Let It Snow

The Harold Stirling Vanderbilt statue outside Buttrick Hall got some new accessories last week: a cap and cape of snow. Thanks to a double winter storm, almost three inches of the white stuff blanketed Nashville. Students, residential faculty, and their families turned out in the cold (and in masks) to go sledding, build snow sculptures, and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

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